

Hawai‘i Volcanoes

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park
Hawai‘i



Park Unit

Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park was established on August 1, 1916, the 15th National Park in a system that now numbers 408 areas. The park is located in the state of Hawai‘i, on the southeastern part of the Island of Hawai‘i, in the districts of Ka‘ū and Puna. The Superintendent is Cindy Orlando. The park website is www.nps.gov/havo. It is one of 61 parks in the NPS Pacific West Region.

Purpose

The mission of Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park is to protect, conserve, and study the volcanic landscapes and associated natural and cultural resources and processes, and to facilitate safe public access to active volcanism, diverse geographic settings, and wilderness for public education and enjoyment.

Resources

In recognition of its outstanding values, Hawai‘i Volcanoes has been designated an International Biosphere Reserve (1980) and a World Heritage Site (1987).

Geological

Hawai‘i Volcanoes extends from sea level to 13,677’ (4,169 meters) and encompasses the summits and rift zones of two of the world’s most active volcanoes, Kīlauea and Mauna Loa. Kīlauea has been in nearly continuous eruption since 1983; Mauna Loa last erupted in 1984. Volcanic features found within the park include calderas, pit craters, cinder cones, spatter ramparts, fumaroles, solfataras, pāhoehoe and ‘a‘ā lava flows, tree molds, lava tubes, black sand beaches, and thermal areas.

Biological

The park’s 7 ecological zones (seacoast, lowland, mid-elevation woodland, rain forest, upland forest, subalpine, and alpine) harbor an astonishing biodiversity of plant and animal communities. The park provides refuge for many endangered species: honu ‘ea (hawksbill turtle), nēnē (Hawaiian goose), ‘ua‘u (Hawaiian petrel), ‘io (Hawaiian hawk) and ope‘ape‘a (Hawaiian hoary bat).

Cultural

The cultural heritage begins with the indigenous Hawaiians. Their connection to the land, both past and present, is found from the coastal cliffs to the summit craters of both volcanoes. The rich archeological record connects today’s Hawaiians to their voyaging ancestors who made landfall on this island. The history of geological exploration and the protection of significant natural landscapes through the establishment of the park is found and shared with visitors by driving the roads, walking through historic districts, visiting historic buildings, and through the use of the park’s archives and museum collections.

Statistics

Size

333,086 acres; 66 mi of paved roads; 155 mi of marked trails; 123,100 acres legislated wilderness; 121,015 acres of eligible wilderness; 7,850 acres potential wilderness

Staffing

145 employees in 2015 (includes permanent, temporary, and seasonal hires)

Annual Visitation

1,693,005 recreational visits in 2014

Budget

\$7,152,640 in appropriations for 2014

Other

Agencies & Organizations

Friends of Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park
Hawai‘i Pacific Parks Association
Hawai‘i Volcanoes Lodge Company, LLC
Kīlauea Military Camp, a Joint Services Recreation Center
U.S. Geological Survey, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory
U.S. Geological Survey, Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center
U.S. Forest Service, Biological Quarantine Facility
Volcano Art Center

Congressional Delegation

2nd District: Senator Brian E. Schatz (D), Senator Mazie Hirono (D)
U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard (D)

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